United Nations A/63/952–S/2009/433

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
26 August 2009
English
Original: Russian

General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 7
Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: reports of the General Committee

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Letter dated 24 August 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the joint statement by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. D. A. Medvedev, and the President of the State of Israel, Mr. S. Peres, of 18 August 2009 on the seventieth anniversary of the start of the Second World War and request that it be circulated as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 7, and of the Security Council (see annex).

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 24 August 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint statement by the President of the Russian Federation, Dmitry Medvedev, and the President of the State of Israel, Shimon Peres, on the seventieth anniversary of the start of the Second World War

1 September 2009 will mark the seventieth anniversary of the start of the Second World War — the greatest tragedy in human history. The verdict of the Nuremberg Tribunal placed responsibility for the War on Nazi Germany, which unleashed unjustified and inhuman aggression against sovereign States, including the Soviet Union, and against all Jewish people.

The Nazi regime and its accomplices in various countries carried out systematic mass annihilation of people on the basis of race. We pay tribute to the millions and millions of Soviet men and women, soldiers and civilians, who died in the war against Hitlerism. While honouring their memory, we also express deep indignation at attempts to deny the immense contribution made by the Russian people and other peoples of the Soviet Union to the victory over Nazi Germany, and also to deny the crime of the Holocaust committed against European Jews and the genocide against them, which was finally halted by the Red Army and Allied troops.

Attempts to deny the Holocaust, to downplay the tragedy of the Holocaust and to erase it from history, and also to conceal the deaths and sufferings of millions of innocent victims of different nationalities, are a direct insult to the memory of all victims of the Second World War and of those who fought against fascism.

Such blasphemy is dangerous and absolutely unacceptable. We call upon all people of goodwill to say a decisive "no" to those who support the malicious rewriting of history and distort the tragic events and main outcome of the Second World War. Horrors such as those experienced by the wartime generations should not take place in the twenty-first century or ever again.

The Jewish and Russian peoples fought on the same side during the Second World War and stood together in the battle against Hitlerism and racism. Hundreds of thousands of Jews fought side by side with Russians and representatives of other peoples of the Soviet Union in the Red Army, which liberated concentration and death camps and played a vital role in the outcome of the war against Nazi Germany. Many of these Red Army heroes are now living in the Russian Federation, Israel and other States. We honour their courage and resolve. No attempt to rewrite history can diminish or obscure these self-evident facts.